

Claim 35 (new) A method of improving or maintaining absorption of vitamin E in a pet animal, the method comprising the step of feeding the pet a sufficient amount of an edible composition that effects the pet's lipid absorption capacity.

Claim 36 (new) A method according to claim 35 wherein the composition comprises a promoter selected from the group consisting of a pancreatic function-promoter, a liver function-promoter, and an intestinal mucosa function-promoter.

Claim 37 (new) A method according to claim 36 wherein the pancreatic function-promoter comprises a component selected from the group consisting of a lipase, a gut pH modifier and a pancreatic extract.

Claim 38 (new) A method according to claim 37 wherein the gut pH modifier is selected from the group consisting of an acidifier, an alkalanizer, a buffer, a prebiotic and a probiotic micro-organism.

Claim 39 (new) A method according to claim 36 wherein the liver function-promoter is selected from the group consisting of taurine, emulsifiers, vitamins, minerals, glutathione and glutathione promoters, and combinations thereof.

Claim 40 (new) A method according to claim 36 wherein the liver function-promoter is a nutrient that increases endogenous glutathione after ingestion.

Claim 41 (new) A method according to claim 36 wherein the intestinal mucosa function promoter includes a component selected from the group consisting of a fat transportation aid, agent and carrier.

Claim 42 (new) A method according to claim 41 wherein the component is selected from the group consisting of whey protein and proteases having the capacity to promote the formation of lipoproteins.

Claim 43 (new) A method according to claim 41 wherein the intestinal mucosa function-promoter is selected from the group consisting of an anti-inflammatory agent, lactoferrin, a prebiotic and a probiotic micro-organism.

Claim 44 (new) A method according to claim 43 wherein the anti-inflammatory agent is an omega-3 fatty acid.

Claim 45 (new) A method according to claim 41 wherein the component has a fatty acid profile selected to improve intestinal absorption.

Claim 46 (new) A method according to claim 45 wherein the fatty acid profile is of a medium chain triglyceride.

Claim 47 (new) A method according to claim 45 wherein the component comprises whey protein.

Claim 48 (new) A method according to claim 35 wherein the composition is administered as a nutritionally balanced, ready-to-eat meal.

Claim 49 (new) A method according to claim 48 wherein the meal comprises a dried pet food kibble.

Claim 50 (new) A method according to claim 35 wherein the composition is administered as a meal supplement.

Claim 51 (new) A method according to claim 50 wherein the meal supplement is in the form of a treat.

Claim 52 (new) A method of maintaining or improving the serum vitamin E level in a pet animal comprising the step of feeding the pet animal an effective amount of an edible composition that maintains or improves the pet's lipid absorption capacity.

Claim 53 (new) A method according to claim 52 wherein the composition comprises at least one promoter selected from the group consisting of a pancreatic function-promoter, a liver function-promoter, and an intestinal mucosa function-promoter.

Claim 54 (new) A method according to claim 53 wherein the pancreatic function-promoter comprises a component selected from the group consisting of lipase, a gut pH modifier and a pancreatic extract.

Claim 55 (new) A method according to claim 53 wherein the liver function-promoter is selected from the group consisting of taurine, emulsifiers, vitamins, minerals, glutathione and glutathione promoters, and combinations thereof.

Claim 56 (new) A method according to claim 53 wherein the intestinal mucosa function promoter includes a component selected from the group consisting of a fat transportation aid, agent and carrier.

Claim 57 (new) A method according to claim 53 wherein the component has a fatty acid profile selected to improve intestinal absorption.

Claim 58 (new) A method according to claim 52 wherein the composition is administered as a nutritionally balanced, ready-to-eat meal.

Claim 59 (new) A method according to claim 58 wherein the meal comprises a dried pet food kibble.

Claim 60 (new) A method according to claim 58 wherein the meal is administered daily.

Claim 61 (new) A composition comprising a component selected from the group consisting of pancreatic function promoters, liver function-promoters, intestinal mucosa function promoters and combinations thereof, in an amount effective to promote or maintain or improve the lipid absorption capacity of the said pet.

Claim 62 (new) The composition of claim 61 wherein the composition is a nutritionally balanced, ready-to-eat pet meal.

Claim 63 (new) The composition of claim 62 wherein the meal is a wet pet food.

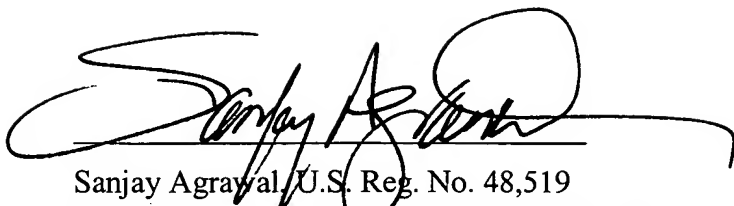
Claim 64 (new) The composition of claim 62 wherein the meal is a dry pet food.

Claim 65 (new) The composition of claim 61 wherein the liver function promoter is lecithin.

Claim 66 (new) The composition of claim 65 wherein the lecithin is obtained from a source selected from the group consisting of soya, sunflower oil, wheat germ, egg, avocado and combinations thereof.

Claim 67 (new) A method of improving the appearance of a pet comprising the step of increasing a pet's serum vitamin E level by feeding the pet a diet that contains an agent selected from the group consisting of a fat emulsifier or fat emulsification system, a fat transportation agent, an acidifying agent and combinations thereof.

Claim 68 (new) A method according to claim 67 wherein the fat transportation agent comprises whey protein.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sanjay Agrawal", is written over a horizontal line.

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